



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/689.732 10/13/00 BABIN

A 14216-1US FN

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EXAMINER

DINH, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED:

09/21/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/689,732

Applicant(s)

BABIN, ANDRE

Examiner

Tuan T Dinh

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 20 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 2, change "a circuit card" to --said circuit card--

Claim 1, line 2, after "into" change "an" to --said--

Claim 1, line 1, change "the electronic device" to --said electronic device--

Claim 1, line 11, change "the associated connector" to --a associated connector--

Claim 20, line 4, change "an electronic device" to --said electronic device--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 5-12 and 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 5, lines 3-4, it is unclear. The phrase of "an intermediate member movable mounted to said sliding member" is not understood. What cause for "an intermediate member movably mounted to said sliding member?"

Regarding claim 5, line 4, it is unclear. The phrase of "the circuit card being mounted" is not understood. Where the circuit card can be mounted?

Regarding claim 6, lines 2-4, it is unclear. The phrase of "said intermediate member is mounted...for parallel movements with respect thereto" is not understood. What is that meant of "said intermediate member...for parallel movements with respect?"

Regarding claim 20, lines 4-5, it is unclear. The phrase of "a mounting member movable mounted to said sliding member" is not understood. What cause for "a mounting member movably mounted to said sliding member?"

Regarding claim 20, lines 6-7, it is unclear. What is that meant of "an actuator effective?"

Regarding claim 20, lines 12-15, it is unclear. The phrase of "by operating of said actuator, to a connection position where the circuit card...to the electronic device" is not understood.

Regarding claim 21, lines 2-4, it is unclear. The phrase of "said mounting member is mounted...for parallel movements with respect thereto" is not understood. What is that meant of "said mounting member...for parallel movements with respect?"

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hillis et al. (U. S. Patent 5,317,481).

As to claim 1, Hillis discloses a system (30, column 4, line 18) as shown in figures 2-12 for movably connecting a circuit card (68, column 4, line 47) to a connector (18, column 4, line 34) of an electronic device (16, column 4, line 20) comprising:

a support structure (100-figure 4, column 5, line 21) for loading said circuit card (68) into said electronic device (16);

said circuit card (68) being support by said support structure (100) and displaceable relative thereto (column 5, lines 45-49);

said support structure being adapted to be slidably inserted along a first axis within said electronic device to a first position (see figure 5); and

an actuator (112, column 5, line 52) mounted to said support structure for selectively displacing said circuit card relative to said support structure along a second axis from said first position to a connection position (see figure 5C) of said circuit card where said connection position of said circuit card is operatively coupled to said connector of said electronic device, and from said connection position to a disconnection position wherein said connection position of said circuit card is disengaged from a associated connector of said electronic device (column 6, lines 55-68, column 7, lines 13-68, column 8, lines 1-58).

As to claim 2, Hillis discloses a system as shown in figures 5-6 wherein in said first position, the connection portion of the circuit card is in register with the associated connector of the device.

As to claim 3, Hillis discloses a system as shown in figures 5-6 wherein the second axis is orthogonal to the first axis.

As to claim 4, Hillis discloses a system as shown in figures 5-6 wherein the actuator (112) is effective for displacing the circuit card (68) in a plane which is parallel to a loading plane of the circuit card within the electronic device (16).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hillis et al (U. S. Patent 5,317,481).

Regarding claims 13-19, the method steps are necessitated by the system as it discloses by Hillis et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lund et al. (u. S. Patent 5,815,377).

As best understood to claim 20, Lund discloses a support structure as shown in figures 1-6 for connecting a circuit card (13) to an electronic device (10) comprising:

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a sliding member (15) adapted to be slidably inserted within said electronic device;

a mounting member (16) mounted to said sliding member (15) to support said circuit card (13); and

an actuator (44-figure 1) operational said circuit card coupled to a connector (11) of said electronic device.

As best understood to claims 21-25, Lund discloses the support structure as shown in figures 1-6 wherein said mounting member is mounted to a mounting surface of said sliding member (see figure 1); said sliding member includes at least one guiding edge (see figure 1).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T Dinh whose telephone number is 703-306-5856. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 703-308-3301. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-3431 for regular communications and 703-308-3431 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

TD

September 19, 2001



Jayprakash N. Gandhi
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800